

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE
Office 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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They Were Blessed: They Said So --- Have You?

BY LOLA BRADSHAW

These are just a few of the comments we receive continually about the blessing of this paper, *The Sword of the Lord*.

From Hammond, Indiana, a friend writes, rejoicing about her brother saved:

"We enjoy your paper very much, and you can imagine how happy I was when I saw a letter in your paper where my brother had signed a decision slip and sent it in."

Then from Homestead, Iowa, we received today:

"I enjoy reading *The Sword of the Lord*. I can't wait until I get hold of the next copy. I'm just a new subscriber to *The Sword of the Lord*, but such spiritual messages are much, yes, much food for my hungry soul. I can't see how I could be without this little paper. It is a small paper, but mighty powerful spiritual dynamite."

From Duncan, Oklahoma:
"It is entirely impossible for me to tell you how much your little paper is blessing our lives. We are so deeply impressed and blessed with the teaching and messages it brings that we are passing it around to our friends. The sermon, 'God's Part, Our Part, and the Sinner's Part in Salvation,' was great."

Douglas, Oklahoma:
"I think it is the best little Christian publication of its kind. It has set me right on some things that I could not understand."

McComb, Mississippi:
"This paper which is one of the best religious papers I've ever read,

has been of great help to me. I'm anxious to help in sending it to others that they, too, may receive a blessing from reading this paper."

From Eldon, Tennessee, a friend writes:
"I enjoy reading *The Sword of the Lord*. I lay everything aside when I get one until I read it. You explain the Bible more of my own mind than any preacher I ever heard."

From Clutier, Iowa:
"How I do enjoy my little paper, *The Sword of the Lord*. It is indeed a spiritual feast and I do look forward to its coming each week with great eagerness."

From Bunker, Missouri:
"Just a line to let you know that we surely enjoy reading and get spiritual uplift from your paper. It is full of real soul food and should be in every home. The only fault is that it is only about half large enough to satisfy my spiritual appetite."

Antigo, Wisconsin:
"Enclosed is one dollar to pay for my subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* for another year which I notice expires April 1st."

"I would not be without the paper if it cost twice or three times as much, as both my wife and I get a lot of good from it. We live four and a half miles from Antigo and have no church in Antigo or any nearer than twenty-five miles from here that we care to attend. So we are glad to receive a paper with a good sermon or two once a week."

Bancroft, Iowa:
"Just last night I received a copy

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

The Secret of Consecration

BY REV. SAM MORRIS

(As preached at Moody Bible Institute May 8, 1940. Stenographically reported by Viola Walden.)

Howdy, neighbor!

It is my joy in life to find at every turning of the road a strong arm of the comrade to guide and to help me onward with my load. I have no gold to give; love alone must make amends, so daily I pray that God will help me to be true to my friends.

I have greatly appreciated Moody through the years. I have another speaking engagement in town tonight. I arrived about noon and contacted some of our friends here and I was informed that I was to conduct the devotions this evening. I am very happy to do it.

Beloved, I am mighty glad I am a Christian. If there were no hereafter, no Heaven, no Hell, no judgment, no eternity, and no God, I would still want to be the kind of man a Christian is supposed to be. Every once in a while somebody says to me, "I would like to be a Christian, but I would have to quit this and stop doing that, and give up something else." Beloved, anything you can't do as a Christian, you had better not do if you are not a Christian.

I never saw my father in a religious service. Mother and Daddy separated two months before I was born. My father returned when I was nine, and he took me into the saw mill camps, and as we common folk say, I was jerked up by the hair of the head. In 1918, eighteen years old, I gave my heart to the Lord in a country school house in east Texas. I know God saved me because I was there when it happened. Thank God I have a "know-so" salvation. Brother, anything you can get without knowing, you can lose without missing, and it wouldn't be worth having. On my way home from church one night when I was nineteen, I promised the Lord if He would be with me, I was going to go with Him and serve Him the best I knew how anywhere, any time, any place. I have been trying to serve Him for twenty-one years. I wouldn't trade any one of the twenty-one years for all the nineteen that I wasn't a Christian. I am glad I am a Christian.

I want to talk to you a little while tonight on consecration. The crying need of this hour is not larger church buildings. It is not larger church budgets. It is not better singing. It is not better organization. The crying need in Christian circles today is a deeper consecration. And if you have your Bible and would like to read with me, I invite your attention to the first chapter of the prophecy of Daniel.

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it."

"2. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god."

"3. And the king spake unto

Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

"4. Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans."

"5. And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank; so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king."

"6. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

"7. Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego."

"8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

"9. Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

"10. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king."

"11. Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

"12. Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink."

"13. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

"14. So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days."

"15. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."

"16. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine, that they should drink; and gave them pulse."

"17. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

"18. Now at the end of the days (at the end of three years) that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar."

"19. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel,

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king."

"20. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."

Four little simple thoughts on the needs of consecration that I give you.

First, the origin of consecration.

Second, the fortification of consecration.

Third, the test of consecration.

Fourth, the profit of consecration.

The Origin of Consecration

"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself."

Consecration begins inside of you, not outside of you. Consecration has its origin in the heart. Others may help us, others may hinder us, but others can neither make us nor break us. The battle is within our own bosom.

Frequently people say to me, "I would give anything in the world if I were as good a Christian as Mrs. So and So," or "I would give anything if I were as good a Christian as Mr. So and So." Well, it is your fault if you are not. Others may be wiser, may be more wealthy or more talented, but, thank God, there is no man or woman living that can be any better for God than Sam Morris if I would start at the right place, and that starts in my own bosom. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. You do not reach consecration by accident. It must start with you.

Did you ever stop to think about the difference in some Bible characters?

Cain and Abel for example: both of the same family, same heredity in the veins, same environment around them, and the same opportunity. One went down as the first murderer; one went down as the first model. What was the difference? They had a different purpose. Cain purposed to please himself; Abel purposed to please God.

Did you ever stop to think about Lot and his Uncle Abraham? The last picture we see of Lot is in a cave in open disgrace with his own daughters — a black, terrible picture of a man who lost his influence and power. Uncle Abraham: the last picture we find of him is that he was buried in the cave of Machpela, buried in honor by his sons, beside his wife. He was a man who had been a great influence for God through all the years. What was the difference? The difference was that Lot beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, and pitched his tent toward Sodom while Abraham was willing to walk with God by faith.

Take Esau and Jacob, for example. What was the difference between these two? They were brothers; a little bit closer this time — they were twins, not only born of the same family but born at the same time, therefore they were brought up under the very same surroundings. One is spoken of as "whom God loved," and one "whom God hated." What was the difference? Jacob wrestled with God until God blessed him, or God wrestled with him, and Jacob got the blessing. He did not turn loose until he got it. Esau on the other hand, was willing to follow his stomach.

I stood on the shore of Ontario (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Can a Saved Person Ever Be Lost?

POSITIVE PROOF GIVING EXPLICIT STATEMENTS FROM
GOD'S WORD THAT A CHILD OF GOD IS BORN AGAIN,
SHALL NEVER PERISH, AND NOW HAS EVERLASTING LIFE

BY JOHN R. RICE

(Continued from last week)

Bible Characters Who Fell Into Sin: Judas

Many prominent men of the Bible fell into grievous sin. Were these men saved? If so, did they become lost? Judas Iscariot is most often mentioned in this connection. He betrayed the Saviour, and according to Acts 1:25 I believe that Judas went to Hell as a lost soul. Acts 1:25 says:

"That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

In John 6:64-71 the Saviour plainly tells us that Judas never believed and was never saved. He knew from the beginning that Judas would betray Him and He knew that Judas was a devil. Read some of these verses and see what Jesus said about Judas Iscariot:

"But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him" (vs. 64).

"Then said Jesus unto the

twelve, Will ye also go away?

68. Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. 70. Jesus answered them, have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71. He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon; for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve" (vss. 67-71).

Judas was never saved, and so never lost his salvation. He never did believe in Christ, but was a devil, so when he died he went to his own place. Certainly Judas is not an example of a Christian losing salvation.

Lot: A Backslidden Christian

Lot was guilty of terrible sins. He ran in bad company, he let his town go to Hell without winning a soul, he drank, and so was indirectly responsible for the ruin of his own daughters. If any man could lose his salvation, it seems that Lot would have lost his. But we must not guess about this matter. Let us turn to Second Peter (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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The Secret of Consecration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

several years ago. The wind was from the south. They were having a sail-boat race. The boats started from my left sailing quite a distance near the upper end of the race course. Some had moved faster and were ahead of the others and had turned back to the starting point before others reached the end. I looked out in front of me. Some were going east; the others were going west. The poet put it this way:

"One ship sails east, another west
By the self-same wind that blows;
It is the set of the sail, not the gale,
That determines the way it goes."

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat or the wine which he drank.

The Fortification of Consecration

The second thing I call your attention to is to fortify your consecration. "Therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." He made his consecration purpose known. It is not just an accident in the Bible that God has requested us to openly confess Him before men. He wants us to confess Him before men that our testimony for Him may turn others to Him, but while it is turning others to Him, it is also building up in our own life a determination to live for God. You can't therefore be consecrated by accident, and you can't live consecrated in secret. It is not accidental and not secret in the Bible. We read in the Bible of two secret disciples of the Lord. We have too many of them. There was Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Can you tell me what they were known for primarily in the Bible? Well, Nicodemus was known for Jesus' sermon to him on "Ye must be born again." They were both pallbearers for the Lord. They buried Jesus. That is about all a secret disciple is fit for — to be a pallbearer. God doesn't want us for pallbearers; God wants us for winning purposes.

"Daniel therefore requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

I live down in Del Rio, Texas, a way down on the Mexican border. Some may have heard my broadcast on the big Mexican radio station. As a matter of egotistical curiosity on my part, how many have heard me? (Large number raised their hands.) You will be interested to know I have heard from all over the world, from many parts of Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, South America, British West Indies, Cuba, and every state in the Union. I am very thankful for that broadcast. Over 2,000 people have written me that they have quit drink after listening to my talks on the radio, most of them turning to the Lord, some just reforming. I thank God for that. There is a man down there who is very popular, a man who has quite a financial standing. He was called out to visit with friends of various classes of society. He doesn't drink. He was called out to these friends' home. This actually happened. He was wearing boots. These friends served whiskey, just a little in the glass. He watched and waited until no one was looking and then he poured the whiskey in his boot tops to keep from drinking it. He didn't want to offend them. That is not the way God wants you and me to do. When such occasions arise, you and I ought to speak out before the world. You will never win your battle by being secretive.

So when this issue came up, all the rest of the fellows down in Judah were eating pignuckles, hog-

head souse, and enjoying it the best you ever saw, and drinking wine. No doubt Satan came to Daniel and said, "Now you are a captive in Babylon. Nobody knows you. Everybody else is doing it." But down in Daniel's heart there was a difference. Down in his heart God's Spirit spoke to him, and Daniel purposed and then said to the prince of the eunuchs, "I can't do it." Brother, do you have courage when everybody else is doing the thing around you, to let it be known where you stand? If you do, then let that conviction be known and let it be known right there, like Daniel did. If you do, you will fortify your consecration for Christ.

M. H. Wolfe, one of the greatest Baptist laymen in the Southern Baptist Convention, a millionaire, a member of Dr. George W. Truett's church in Dallas, Texas, and chairman of the board of deacons. In 1919 cotton was bringing 40c a pound. He went to France following the World War on big mission for the cotton interest of the South which involved millions of dollars. M. H. Wolfe is the best consecrated layman I have ever met. I heard him tell this to us when we were students in Hardin-Simmons College in Abilene, Texas. He went to France, representing the cotton industry in the South, and the big men over there in France gave a banquet for him in his honor. When he came to the end of the banquet table, by several plates were different kinds of glasses, with a different color of wine in each glass. Back yonder when he was about eighteen years old at the front gate of his home when he was ready to leave to go to Dallas, Texas, to begin his business, his mother asked of him one promise, "Son, I only ask one thing of you. Promise me strong drink will never pass your lips." He made that promise and had lived by that promise. Here he was in France. Here were friends which he wanted to make an impression on. In France they thought nothing about drinking wine. It was as common a drink over there as milk is here. A wrong step might accidentally displease them and then they would not be willing to go through with the deal which involved millions. If he drank the wine, he would violate the promise which he made to his mother, and the conviction in his soul. He stood there hesitating. The rest were sipping the wine and thought nothing of it. The interpreter turned to him and said, "Mr. Wolf, why are you not taking your wine?" Then he had to face the question, so he turned to him and said, "I promised mother as a young man never to drink any kind of alcoholic beverages. I have kept that promise through all the years, and I cannot break it now." There was a jabbering around the table in French after which the interpreter turned to him. "You are our guest of honor and you may do as you please about it." And he said, "I am glad at the old front gate I promised mother I would never do it."

My friend, if you purpose in your heart for God the best thing you can do is to get up and tell that promise and make it known. It will fortify you in the hour you are tempted to break it.

The Test of Consecration

The prince of the eunuchs said, "Look here, you are going to get me in trouble. You will endanger my head. I have my orders from the king." Then Daniel said, "All right, try us ten days." Daniel was not afraid to be tested on consecration. He believed if he stood by the Lord, the Lord would stand by him. He believed if he did what God wanted him to do, God would be an ally in time of need.

In Princeton, Indiana, three years ago I was conducting a revival meeting in the First Baptist Church. A man came up to me and said, "Brother Morris, I smoke, and I don't think a Christian ought to. I have tried to quit smoking, but I have smoked all my life and I can't keep from smoking. I have that old craving and I want you to pray for me that God will take the taste away from me, so I can quit cigarettes." Do you know what I said to him? "Pshaw, who wouldn't? If God took the taste away, who wouldn't quit?" I said, "Would a wooden-legged man ever want to go to a dance? Would a

blind man want to look at a picture show? Would a deaf man go hear a band concert?" Brother, you and I are to feel in our heart what God wants us to do, then we are to walk out and do it.

People sometimes say to me, "You are right. I would like to do that, but I can't afford to do it." Brother, you can't afford not to do it if God wants you to. Listen, do right because it is right to do right, not because it is proper, not because it pays.

Brother, we are to stand for God because it is right to stand for God. If we go down standing for Him, then we go down standing for Him but stand for God, be willing to face whatever the future may bring.

The Profit of Consecration

God may not make you the greatest preacher in America or the most popular boy in Moody if you consecrate your life to Him. He may not make you the most prominent, but God will honor you for serving Him. "In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm." God may

not pay you in dollars and cents. He may not pay you in a long life, in popularity, power, prestige, but God will reward you by giving you an understanding into His will. Young people sometimes say, "If God will show me the way, I will walk in it." Who wouldn't? We are to say, "Lord, we will walk in it. Show it to us." We ought to make up our minds first and let God show it to us afterwards.

Look at the twelfth chapter of Romans, verse 1:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice."

Not a dead sacrifice. They killed bulls, sheep, and goats and turtle-doves in the Old Testament, but here He is talking about a living sacrifice, not a dead sacrifice. Many a soldier went to Europe and would have died for his country in the World War, and have come back and lived very unbecomingly. They were willing to die for it, but not willing to live for it. A lot of you would die for your Saviour. Are you willing to live day by day for Him? God isn't asking us to die for Him but to live for Him now.

"I beseech you therefore,

brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

People say, "I don't want to be different" — well, that's exactly what God expects of a Christian — to be different, not conformed to this world.

Why? He can use you better as a living sacrifice, "that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

When the hand wrote upon the wall, who interpreted it? The man who purposed that he would not defile himself.

When the king had a vision and he could not call it, who recalled it and interpreted it? The man who purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

My good friends, I am awfully glad to be with you tonight. Put your heart one hundred per cent in the care of Jesus and live for Him. You may have some hard times, you may go hungry, you may be cursed and abused, but all through

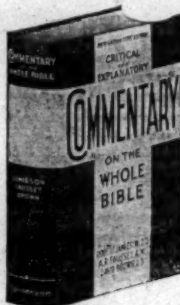
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THE SECRET OF CONSECRATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

it God's will will gently lead you like these dear girls sang awhile ago:

"Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood.
Some through great trials, but God gives a song,
In the night season, and all the day long."

I would rather be led by the Lord, walk in rags, want and hunger than to live in the finest home in the world and not be able to interpret God's will in my life.

I am glad I am a Christian. If there were no hereafter, no Heaven, no Hell, no judgment, no eternity, and no God, I would still want to be the kind of a man a Christian is supposed to be. But there is a Heaven, a Hell, a judgment, an eternity. I am glad I belong to the Lord. God bless you, everyone.

The best gift for someone you know is The Sword of the Lord — \$1.00 a year; 3 years for \$2.00.

Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

2:7, 8, and find what God's Word says about Lot:

"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. 8. (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)."

Lot, even in the midst of Sodom, is called "just Lot," is called "that righteous man," and it is said that he had a "righteous soul"! Lot's righteousness was the same as the righteousness of present Christians, the imputed righteousness of Christ. He was justified by faith, without the deeds of the law (Rom. 3:28), not of his works but of God's grace. Lot certainly sinned, but certainly was not lost, when God said these things about him. We know that Lot lost his family, lost his money, lost his joy because

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of his sins, but he did not lose his soul, for God said he was a just man with a righteous soul.

David's Sins

David committed sins of murder and adultery. We must condemn his sins. They were bad. But David's sins were under the blood of Christ, and in the Fifty-First Psalm, the prayer of David shows that he had not lost his salvation, but lost the joy of his salvation. Psalms 51:11, 12 says:

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

David does not ask for the restoration of salvation, but he does ask that God will restore the joy of salvation. He prays that God will not break the fellowship, will not cast him away from God's presence, will not take away the communion of the Holy Spirit. A backslider like David ought to pray for the joy of salvation to be restored, but he should not believe that God has cast away His child. David sinned, but he did not become a lost sinner again. So David praised God, under divine inspiration, saying:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity" (Psa. 32: 1, 2).

That scripture shows why David did not lose his salvation and why a saved man cannot be lost.

"Implied" Doctrines

Perhaps, my troubled friends, there are other scriptures which come to your mind. I have given those upon which the doctrine of losing salvation is generally based. But you say some other scriptures "seem to imply" that a saved person can be lost. That is one of the sad things that has filled the world with false doctrine today: people teach some doctrine which the Bible does not anywhere plainly teach but which they think is "implied" somewhere. A question so important as this ought to be settled by the Word of God and I promise you if you will prayerfully take the scriptures which I give you, word for word, this matter will be settled forever in your own heart, that a saved person can never be lost.

A Positive Bible Teaching That a Saved Person Cannot Be Lost

I have shown that there is no teaching in the Bible that a saved person may become lost. Now let us turn to some of the many passages wherein the Bible very clearly and unmistakably teaches the eternal security and safety of the man who has trusted in Christ. Every teaching about salvation is a teaching of everlasting salvation.

A Christian Has Been Born Again

Salvation is likened to a birth in John 1:13 and John 3:3; 5-7. Saved people are now the children of God (I John 3:2). A child cannot become unborn, and the relationship of father and child cannot be ended. Notice too that the Bible mentions many times the second birth but never a third birth. To be born again once is enough. When I have become God's child, that is as settled as when I was born my father's child.

Again I beg you to take the Bible at face value. When Jesus teaches that a Christian is born again, has become a child of God, has a right to call God "our Father," He means exactly that. There is a real change when a sinner is converted. He becomes a child of God and is born into the family of God as definitely as my children are born in my family. Second Peter 1:4 says:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

A Christian is literally a child of God and has become a partaker of the divine nature. Whatever that man does, God has become his Father and he has become a child of God. My children stay in my family not by virtue of their goodness, but by virtue of their birth. We are God's children on the same basis, born into His family. That is the meaning of Romans 8:14-17 which says:

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the

sons of God. 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; 17. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

If the mother's love fails for her baby, God's love is greater. Even though a child on account of sin may lose fellowship with his earthly father, yet the child partakes of the nature of the father. They may have the same eyes or hair or ways. So, though a Christian may lose sweet fellowship with the Father by his sins, yet he is still God's child, partaker of the divine nature. God punishes His children when they sin, but they are His children still.

The Bible could not honestly use this picture of a birth, and a relation of father and child concerning God and His people, if it were not so that when one is saved he enters into a permanent relation with God which does not change. One's fellowship changes, but his relation does not.

Everlasting Life

More than forty-five times the terms "eternal life" and "everlasting life" are used in the Bible. Besides, many other times such terms as "eternal redemption," "eternal glory," "eternal salvation," "eternal inheritance," etc., are used. These terms are used more often in the gospel of John than elsewhere, but everywhere they are used, the promise of everlasting life is given to those who believe. John 3:16 is a glorious example of this. One hundred and one times in the gospel of John the words "believe," "believing," or "believed" are used and most of the time referring to the plan of salvation. And many times with instance piled upon instance it is stated that a man has everlasting life when he believes.

The Believer Has Everlasting Life Already

God promises everlasting life to the believer, and that everlasting life is a PRESENT POSSESSION of the believer. John 3:36 says: "He that believeth on the Son HATH EVERLASTING LIFE." Put that in modern English and it simply says, "He that believes (or trusts) on the Son HAS EVERLASTING LIFE." That is literally what the Bible says. I have trusted Him, so I HAVE IT, THANK GOD, I HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE! The scripture does not say that the believer WILL HAVE everlasting life, but says that the believer HAS IT NOW!

The same thing is repeated again and again in the Bible. John 6: 47 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me HATH EVERLASTING LIFE." There again, God says the believer HAS EVERLASTING LIFE. John 5:24 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Brother, take God's Word for it and be happy. If you have trusted in Christ, you now have life, everlasting life, life that will last forever, and you will not lose it! Praise the Lord!

When I believed in Jesus I had the life and I had the everlasting also. Suppose that ten years after I got everlasting life I should sin and lose it. Then that would not be everlasting because it only lasted ten years. But God has guaranteed everlasting life to the one who trusts Christ. You notice that in each case the word "believeth" is used in the present tense, but the everlasting life runs on into eternity. Anybody who has everlasting life can never lose it. Doubting soul, look not at your own unworthiness, but look to the eternal promises of God that when you believed in Christ you got everlasting life. There is no other honest way to interpret these promises of God than to take them at their face value and thank God.

But the Lord piles promise on top of promise. In John 6:37 He promises that a saved person will never be cast out:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and HIM THAT COMETH TO ME

I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT."

Thank God for that "in no wise." Jesus says He will not cast out a saved person under any condition in the world. Your sins, even since you were saved may have been mighty black, and in fact it is quite sure that they have been! But He will not cast you out. He said so Himself.

That great old hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," the hymn my mother wanted sung to her a few minutes before she went home to Heaven, says it so sweetly:

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all Hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never, forsake."

This safety is not earned. We do not deserve it. This safety of a child of God depends on the goodness of God, His faithfulness to keep His promises. Thank God, it does not depend on my efforts nor on my deserts. I can safely trust His promise, who said that He would never cast me out!

No Condemnation To One Who Has Believed

The saved person will not come into condemnation, for John 5:24 says:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

A believer shall not come into condemnation! That reaches on through to the end of eternity without any limit. The reason is given here: because the sinner is passed from death unto life. The Revised Version will make it clearer even yet, for as translated there this verse says about the believer that he "hath everlasting life and cometh not to judgment." The reason a saved person will not ever be condemned is because he will not even come before the court to be tried! Christ has already been tried, counted guilty and borne the punishment for all the sins that a believer ever has done or ever will do, and the sinner has passed out of the death of sin and will not come into condemnation nor ever come to judgment. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34).

None Can Take Us Out of the Hands of Christ

Another such blessed promise is in John 10:28. Speaking of His sheep Jesus said:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Notice a triple promise here concerning the security of God's sheep. First, Christ gives them eternal life. Second, they shall never perish, and third, neither shall any pluck them out of Christ's hand. Brother, are you one of Christ's sheep? If so, you have eternal life, you will never perish and cannot be taken from His hand. The last promise is all the stronger when you notice that the word "man" in this verse is in italics which shows it was not in the original at all. No one, either man or devil, can take one of Christ's sheep out of His hands. And the following verse adds for extra security that God the Father, who gave us to Jesus Christ, is greater than any one and no one can take us out of the hands of the Father. What blessed, blessed safety is ours, who have trusted in Christ Jesus!

Nothing Can Separate the Believer From the Love of God

Paul was certainly confident about the safety of his soul. To the young preacher Timothy he wrote, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12). Paul was certainly "persuaded" about this matter for he uses the same word in Rom. 8:38, 39, under divine inspiration.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor



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Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

things to come, 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Nothing in death, nothing in life, can separate us from the love of God. Angels cannot (remember that the devil seems to be a fallen angel). Principalities and powers cannot (certainly the devil is a power). Things present cannot separate us from the love of God, nor can anything that ever will come in the future, says Paul here. Nothing in the height all the way up to Heaven can come between us and God, and nothing in the depth all the way down to Hell can separate us from His love. Then the Lord, knowing our doubts, our unbelief, and our conscious unworthiness, after He has named everything that a poor forgiven sinner might be afraid of, yet adds the other words, "nor any other creature." Nothing ever created can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord! That is the kind of salvation I have, the kind every believer has, and the kind every lost sinner can have if he will trust in Christ!

Are We Saved By Works or By Grace?

Many Christians think this blessed teaching is too good to be true and some call it a dangerous doctrine to say a saved man cannot be lost. But one is never on dangerous ground when he takes the promises of God. What then is the basis for this great salvation? It is all in the merits of Christ. Salvation is of grace, "Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:9). Paul wrote to Titus that it was "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but ac-

cording to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5). No man ever got saved by doing good, for "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Rom. 3:20). And "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28). Man cannot get saved by his works nor keep saved by his works. You did not deserve salvation when you got it and you have never deserved it any single day you have ever lived since you got it. Salvation is of grace, that is, the loving mercy of God. If a man's safety after salvation depends on his works, then he is really saved by his works, and must earn his salvation. That would take glory from Christ and put it on man. The fact is that if any person in the world got what he deserved, he would go to Hell, for all have sinned and do sin, day by day. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8). And the wages of sin is death. There can be no salvation either obtained or kept by man's goodness, lest in eternity "any man should boast." Salvation is "the gift of God." We are freely justified." No man deserves it or ever will, either before he gets it or after.

Sin Is Not Charged Up to the Christian

Read prayerfully that blessed fourth chapter of Romans and see how Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him for righteousness. There we are told in verses 5-8 that the same thing is true of every believer:

"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7. Saying, Blessed are they

whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:5-8).

The righteousness of a Christian is really the righteousness of Christ which is charged to my account when I trust in Him. My sins likewise were charged up to Christ and He has already paid for them. When Christ died on the cross He died for all the sins that I ever have committed or ever will, though I had not yet been born. That one sacrifice had to be sufficient to pay for all sin and there will never be another sacrifice for man's sins. So when I trusted Christ I got forgiveness for all my sins and from this time on my sins are charged back to Christ and are not charged against me at all. That is what God means when He says, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." That is the reason that a Christian will not come into condemnation, and will not even come into judgment as far as his soul's salvation is concerned. The security of my soul depends, then, not at all on my goodness, for I am not good, but it depends on the righteousness of Christ and His faithful promises.

Does It Matter How A Christian Lives?

Perhaps someone will say then that it does not matter how a Christian lives if there is no danger of his losing his soul. How foolish and short-sighted such a statement is! Would you say to my daughter that it does not matter how she lives since her position as my daughter is secure? It is true, she is my daughter; she always will be, and I dare say that even my poor human father-love would not fall her no matter what she did. But she could easily lose the sweet communion with her father, crush all his pride in her and lose all the happiness which she now has. So it is with God's children; sin breaks the communion with the father, takes away the joy of salvation and loses much of the reward a Christian might have. First Corinthians 3:12-15 is talking about this reward and shows that the evil works of a Christian will be burned up and only the good works remain. But the scripture goes on to say, "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." It certainly does matter how a Christian lives!

Sin Does Not Pay

Besides the matter of fellowship and rewards, God punishes His own children for their sins. My daughters and mine and therefore I feel responsible for them and must chasten them for their good. So God whips His children, because of His love and chastises them for their sins (Heb. 12:5-8). But that chastisement is all in this world, not the next.

On account of David's sin his baby died, and evidently because of his example his son, Amnon, ruined his own sister, Tamar. Amnon was murdered by another brother, Absalom, who was also David's son, and then Absalom tried to take the kingdom away from David. Sin did not pay with David and it never pays anybody else. God whips His children for their sins, but thank God, He never does forsake them or allow their souls to be lost for whom Christ died and who trusted in Him.

In fact, dear friend, if you have thus settled that your soul is kept safe by the power of God through the merits of Jesus Christ, you are prepared to serve Him as never before. Love is a greater motive than fear. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!" (I John 3:1). Oh, the depth of the riches of God. His salvation is everlasting, and one He has saved shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life!

Wonderful Saviour!

Wonderful salvation given free to "whosoever will" trust Christ who died for sinners!

Wonderful life, everlasting life, life that never ends, beginning the moment you trust Christ!

Thank God, a saved person can never be lost!

They Were Blessed:

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

for the first time. I didn't know there was such a paper. It is wonderful and just what we need."

Greensburg, Missouri:

"We have taken *The Sword of the Lord* for many years, and could not do without it now, for it has been such a blessing and relief to us; gives us strength and courage. We would like to send more. You will find enclosed \$2.00 from me. Please send papers to names given below which I hope will get as much help as we get from the paper."

From Murdock, Kansas:

"As we have been finding so many blessings in and through your paper, we have sent in twice for new subscriptions and this makes sixty names. Praying that readers will find Christ and as many blessings as we have found in the papers, and praying that God will endue you with power to keep up the good work."

Millville, Minnesota:

"Dear Brother Rice: I must write you and let you know that I love to read your sermons in *The Sword of the Lord*. I feel some seed fell on good ground when I read 'A Sower Went Forth to Sow.' God bless your work. I could not help but shed a few tears."

J. C. S.

The following decision slip was signed and enclosed in the above letter:

"I am glad the gospel seed has been sown in my heart, and I don't want the Devil to snatch it away. I here and now receive Christ as my Saviour, and gladly mail this to let you know."

Also a woman in Belmona, Iowa, signed the decision slip from the same sermon, "A Sower Went Forth to Sow."

Then from the state penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas, a woman signed the following decision slip from the sermon, "The Harvest Is Past," and sent it with a letter to the editor:

"Dear Brother Rice: Knowing that I am a sinner, and anxious not to miss God's harvest time, I here and now repent of my sins and trust Christ to forgive me and save me. I surrender to Him my heart

and my life now while he is calling, and I write this to let you know. I will openly confess Him before men and by His help will try to live for Him the rest of my life."

Then she gave her name and address. She wrote the following letter:

"Dear Brother Rice: I am writing you from behind prison bars, though I hope that will not hinder me from becoming the Christian I want to be."

"I have tried so very hard to become a true Christian, but it seems that something keeps holding me back."

"Will you either tell me how or help me to become closer to Christ?"

"I have long been a wayward sinner and have caused many heartaches and tears in my beloved parents' lives. Is it too late for me to atone and to be forgiven?"

"This is the first time I have read your paper and it was a surprise to me, as I didn't know what a beautiful paper it was."

"Praying for help and forgiveness, I am,

Mrs. P. — W. —
Box 38
Huntsville, Texas."

We ask the readers of this paper to pray for this woman who is in prison today because of her sins, that the Lord will give her the peace and assurance that she wants. Many copies of this paper go to those behind the bars each week. Won't you help us pray that God will use every issue to save sinners and bless Christians? We praise God for those who have been saved and blessed by *The Sword*.

Our load is heavy here. If you have been blessed, why not write and tell us so? Your letters bless us, and we appreciate them. If you have any suggestions how the paper can be improved, we would be glad to consider them. Pray for us. And we don't want to lose you from among our readers, so please keep up your subscription. Don't wait until your subscription runs out. If it hasn't expired yet, you can renew, and we will simply add to your present subscription a year's time or three years', according to the price you send for your renewal. You remember it is \$1.00 a year, or three years for \$2.00.

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